(b) the number of projects sanctioned and actually completed in the above areas; and

(c) the number of mandays of employment generated under various JRY schemes in the above area;

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) An amount of Rs. 438.92 lakhs have been released as central share of assistance under JRY to Thane district of Maharashtra as on date during the year 1996-97. Taluka-wise releases are not being made under JRY at central level.

(b) The JRY is an on going centrally sponsored scheme. Under JRY the schemes are prepared and implemented by the State Government through DRDA/Zilla Parishad/Village Panchayat. The information of schemes taken up at the district/Taluka/village level is not monitored at the central level.

(c) 5.92 lakhs mandays have been reported as generated in Thane district upto September, 1996 during 1996-97.

Joint production of Hydro-power by India and Nepal

753. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India and Nepal have been jointly making efforts to generate hydro-electicity;

(b) if so, the details of the power projects proposed to be set up by both the countries; and

(c) the quantum of hydro-power expected to be generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Governments of India and Nepal have constituted joint technical experts groups for hydro-electric projects in Nepal for guidance for investigation and preparation of detailed project reports. These projects are:—

1. Kernali	10800 MW
2. Pancheshwar	2000 MW (4000 MW in ultimate stage)
3. Kosi	3300 MW
4. Burhi Gandaki	600 MW
Total	16700 MW

Rural Electric Cooperatives Financed by REC

754. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Rural Electric Cooperatives which have so far been promoted and financed by Rural Eelctrification Corporation;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the States do not have even a single cooperative and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken for spreading the Rural Electric Cooperatives during the last two years and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Rural Electrification Corporation has so far promoted & financed 41 Rural Electric Cooperatives in the country.

(b) There are 18 States which presently do not have any Rural Electric Cooperative Societies. "Cooperatives" being a State subject, the setting up of rural electric cooperatives is dependent upon the State Government's policy, support at the local level and an environment conducive for the setting up of such cooperative societies. Inadequate response from some State Governments/State Electricity Boards has been the major reason for not having a single Rural Electric Cooperative in such States.

(c) Rural Electrification Corporation has been assisting the concerned State Governments to promote viable Rural Electric Cooperatives in their States. Rural Electrification Corporation has been extending concessional finance for Rural Electric Cooperatives. No new assistance could be organised during the last 2 years.

Drinking Water Facilities under AUWSP and Gujarat

755. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities and towns which have so far been provided with drinking water facilities in Gujarat under the Accelerated Urban Supply Programme;

(b) how many additional cities and towns are likely to be covered under the programme during the current financial year and by the end of the century; and

(c) what other measures are being taken by Government to augment the drinking water supply in urban areas of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) applicable to towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census, schemes have been sanctioned for providing safe drinking water facilities to Dharampur, Bantva, Dhrol, Okha Port, Jodia, Mendarda, Barwala and Surajkaradi towns in Gujarat.

(b) Out of a total of 84 towns eligible for assistance under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP), the numbers of additional towns likely to be covered under the programme during the current financial year and by the end of the century, would depend on generation of schemes and their priority as decided by the State Government, the fund requirment and the allocation of resources by the Planning Commission.

(c) Water Supply is a State subject but the Central Government endeavours to provide financial assistance to the States within the limits of available resources to tackle this problem. Apart from the Centrally sponsored AUWS Programme, allocations are made by the Planning Commission in the State Plan under the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector. The total allocations made so far during the Eighth Plan period upto March, 1996 to Gujarat are Rs. 77.89 crores.

Review of Housing Policy

756. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have of late reviewed the housing policy and adopted it with or without modifications;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure optimum use of houses and residential units available in metropolises and other cities and towns by enactment of rent laws, on the pattern of the model-law framed by Government over two years ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The task of formulation of National Housing Policy was initiated in the mid-eightees. After indepth consultations, the final version of the policy was tabled in Parliament in July, 1992. The National Housing Policy was approved by Parliament in August, 1994.

(b) The policy is based on the principle of "Enabling Approach of the State". State/public agencies will act mainly as 'facilitators' rather than 'builders' or 'providers' of housing. The "enabling role" of